

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q83924

Akihiro GOTO, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/516,506

Group Art Unit: 1792

Confirmation No.: 5134

Examiner: Ronald D LAFOND

Filed: December 1, 2004

For: ELECTRODE FOR ELECTRIC DISCHARGE SURFACE TREATMENT, ELECTRIC DISCHARGE SURFACE TREATMENT METHOD AND ELECTRIC DISCHARGE SURFACE TREATMENT APPARATUS

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under § 1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of an English language Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office of WO 99/58744 and WO 01/23641 references. In addition, English language abstracts for JP-2000-345367, WO 99/58744 and WO 01/23641 are submitted herewith and constitute a concise explanation of relevance for these foreign language documents.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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